

Arkansas Labor Market Trends



August 2004

Arkansas' Nonfarm Jobs Post Seasonal Declines

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted) advanced 8,600 between July and August to 1,147,900. Staffing for the fall semester at public and private educational facilities provided much of the increase. Employment expanded in eight of the state's eleven major sectors.

Employment in the **government** sector, at 187,900, rose 3,800 between July and August. This increase was expected and resulted from the return of support personnel to state and local schools for the fall semester.

Educational and health services employment grew by 2,100 in August. Two-thirds of the additional jobs were in health care and social assistance.

In August, **professional and business services** added 1,500 jobs. Increased hiring at firms that provide employment services accounted for the gain.

There were 204,000 **manufacturing** jobs in August, an addition of 500 over the month. Recalls from vacation layoffs were primarily responsible.

Jobs in **trade, transportation and utilities** totaled 240,800 in August, up 400. Many workers were hired at retail stores for back-to-school sales.

Arkansas' **construction** sector, at 52,300, rose 300. The largest increase (+200) was in "heavy construction".

Gains of 100 jobs were noted in both **leisure-hospitality** and **natural resources-mining**.

Other services had 41,100 workers in August, a seasonal decrease of 200.

The number of **information** and **financial activities** jobs remained at 20,200 and 51,500, respectively.

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Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	Aug. 04	July 04	Aug. 03
Total Nonfarm	1,147,900	1,139,300	1,139,800
Goods Producing	263,500	262,600	264,600
Natural Resources & Mining	7,200	7,100	7,100
Mining	3,800	3,800	3,800
Construction	52,300	52,000	52,500
Construction of Buildings	12,100	12,100	12,000
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	10,700	10,500	10,900
Specialty Trade Contractors	29,500	29,400	29,600
Manufacturing	204,000	203,500	205,000
Durable Goods	108,600	108,800	108,600
Wood Products	14,100	14,100	14,100
Primary Metals	8,300	8,400	7,900
Fabricated Metals	17,900	17,900	17,500
Machinery	14,400	14,500	14,000
Computer & Electronic Products	6,000	6,100	6,100
Electrical Equipment	13,000	12,900	13,100
Transportation Equipment	16,100	16,200	15,800
Furniture & Related Products	7,800	8,000	8,600
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,600	6,500	6,900
Nondurable Goods	95,400	94,700	96,400
Food	52,500	52,100	52,200
Paper & Printing	17,100	17,200	17,100
Plastics & Rubber Products	13,000	12,600	13,200
Service Providing	884,400	876,700	875,200
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	240,800	240,400	239,600
Wholesale Trade	45,000	45,100	44,700
Retail Trade	130,100	129,700	129,100
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	18,200	18,200	17,800
General Merchandise Stores	35,200	35,100	34,000
Department Stores	10,200	10,200	9,800
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	65,700	65,600	65,800
Utilities	6,700	6,700	6,800
Transportation & Warehousing	59,000	58,900	59,000
Truck Transportation	34,500	34,600	33,700
Warehousing & Storage	10,000	9,900	10,100
Information	20,200	20,200	20,400
Publishing Industries	6,400	6,400	6,400
Telecommunications	8,500	8,600	8,800
Financial Activities	51,500	51,500	50,900
Finance & Insurance	38,500	38,500	37,900
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,000	13,000	13,000
Professional & Business Services	106,200	104,700	105,300
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	30,400	30,500	30,500
Management of Companies	24,200	24,400	23,800
Administrative & Support Services	51,600	49,800	51,000
Employment Services	24,600	22,800	24,800
Education & Health Services	143,100	141,000	138,900
Educational Services	10,000	9,300	10,100
Health Care & Social Assistance	133,100	131,700	128,800
Ambulatory Health Care	40,600	40,300	39,300
Hospitals	43,300	43,200	41,400
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	25,800	25,600	25,400
Social Assistance	23,400	22,600	22,700
Leisure & Hospitality	93,600	93,500	91,900
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11,000	11,300	10,600
Accommodation & Food Services	82,600	82,200	81,300
Accommodation Service	11,900	12,000	11,300
Food Services	70,700	70,200	70,000
Other Services	41,100	41,300	41,000
Automotive Repair	7,400	7,400	7,500
Government	187,900	184,100	187,200
Federal Government	21,400	21,400	21,300
State Government	62,300	60,400	61,800
Local Government	104,200	102,300	104,100

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas grew by 8,100. Service providing industries gained 9,200 jobs, while goods producing industries lost 1,100.

The **educational and health services** sector expanded over the year, adding 4,200 workers. Health care and social assistance facilities accounted for all of the growth.

Compared to the previous year, employment in **leisure and hospitality** advanced 1,700. Hiring in the accommodations and food services sector was responsible for much of the gain.

The number of jobs in **trade, transportation and utilities** was up 1,200. Increased hiring in almost all categories contributed to the gain.

Employment in the **professional and business services** sector was up 900 over the year. The "administration and support services" category accounted for 67 percent of the growth.

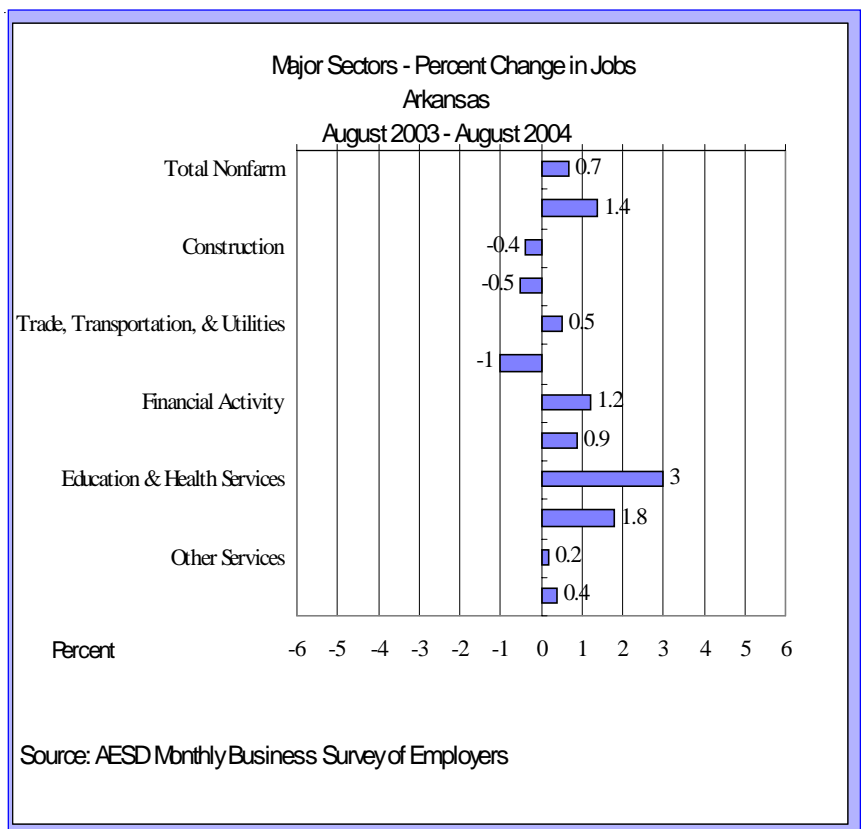
Government, which includes federal, state and local agencies, as well as educational facilities, added 700 positions since August 2003.

The number of jobs in the **financial activities** sector rose 600 over the year. Finance and insurance companies were responsible for the growth.

Growth of 100 jobs was noted in both the **natural resources-mining** and **other services** sectors.

Manufacturing fell by 1,000 jobs since August 2003, led by job losses in the furniture and related products industry (-800).

Losses of 200 jobs were noted in both the **construction** and **information** sectors.



Consumer Price Index for the United States: August-04 1982-1984=100 Base

	Percent Change Since:				
	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03	Jul-04	Aug-03
All Urban Consumers	189.5	189.4	184.6	+ 0.1%	+ 2.7%
Urban Wage Earners &					
Clerical Workers	185.0	184.9	180.3	+ 0.1%	+2.6%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Hours & Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries - State of Arkansas

NAICS Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug. 2004	Jul. 2004	Aug. 2003	Aug. 2004	Jul. 2004	Aug. 2003	Aug. 2004	Jul. 2004	Aug. 2003
Manufacturing	\$ 542.84	\$ 542.57	\$ 545.92	40.3	40.4	40.2	\$13.47	\$13.43	\$13.58
Durable Goods	572.00	569.38	560.60	41.6	41.5	41.1	13.75	13.72	13.64
Wood Product Mfg.	624.34	579.55	571.94	44.5	40.9	41.9	14.03	14.17	13.65
Fabricated Metal Prod	564.59	584.46	566.12	39.9	40.9	39.7	14.15	14.29	14.26
Non-Durable Goods	511.15	511.82	529.20	38.9	39.1	39.2	13.14	13.09	13.50
Food Manufacturing	413.01	426.66	434.25	39.0	40.1	38.6	10.59	10.64	11.25

Fayetteville - Springdale - Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification	Aug. 04	July 04	Aug. 03
Total Nonfarm	175,900	174,800	172,500
Goods Producing	38,100	38,000	38,300
Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction	8,400	8,300	8,200
Manufacturing	29,700	29,700	30,100
Durable Goods	12,500	12,500	12,700
Fabricated Metals	3,500	3,500	3,600
Nondurable Goods	17,200	17,200	17,400
Food	12,100	12,100	12,400
Service Providing	137,800	136,800	134,200
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	43,600	43,700	42,400
Wholesale Trade	8,300	8,300	7,800
Retail Trade	18,100	18,100	17,500
General Merchandise Stores	5,100	5,100	5,000
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	17,200	17,300	17,100
Information	2,200	2,200	2,300
Financial Activities	6,800	6,800	6,700
Professional & Business Services	27,800	27,900	27,400
Employment Services	3,500	3,300	3,500
Education & Health Services	16,100	15,800	15,400
Hospitals	4,800	4,800	4,700
Leisure & Hospitality	14,500	14,500	14,200
Other Services	5,000	4,900	4,900
Government	21,800	21,000	20,900
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	1,800
State Government	7,700	7,100	7,600
Local Government	12,200	12,000	11,500



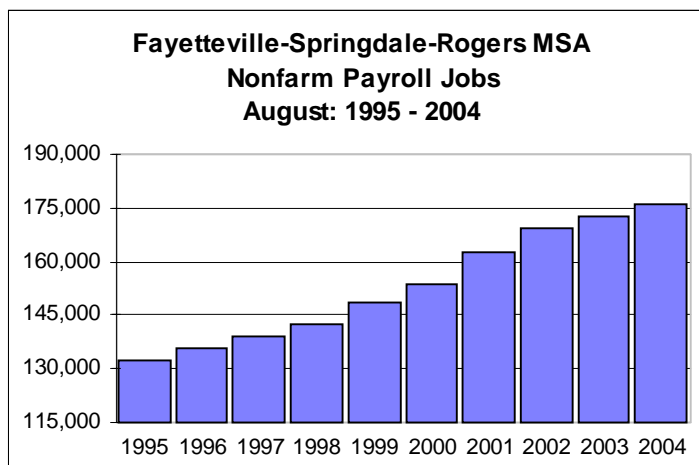
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase

Nonfarm employment in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA rose 1,100 over the month to total 175,900 in August. Four major sectors posted gains over the month.

The largest monthly gain was 800 in **government**. Most of this increase resulted from the recall of support personnel at state and local schools in preparation for the fall semester.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs added 3,400, for a growth rate of 2.0 percent. Gains in eight major sectors were partly offset by decreases in **manufacturing** (-400) and **information** (-100). The largest yearly increase was 1,200 in **trade, transportation, and utilities**.

Since August 1995, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 43,800 from 132,100. This is a gain of 33 percent in nine years.



Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

	August 04	July 04	August 03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$575.02	\$575.86	\$554.85
Average Weekly Hours	43.3	43.2	41.1
Average Hourly Earnings	\$13.28	\$13.33	\$13.50

Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	Aug. 04	July 04	Aug. 03
Total Nonfarm	98,700	98,100	99,300
Goods Producing	31,600	31,500	31,100
Natural Resources & Mining	1,100	1,000	1,000
Construction	4,800	4,800	4,800
Manufacturing	25,700	25,700	25,300
Durable Goods	15,000	14,900	14,700
Electrical Equipment	6,100	6,000	6,100
Nondurable Goods	10,700	10,800	10,600
Food Manufacturing	7,400	7,400	7,100
Service Providing	67,100	66,600	68,200
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	19,900	19,900	19,700
Wholesale Trade	3,300	3,300	3,200
Retail Trade	10,900	10,900	11,000
General Merchandise Stores	3,500	3,500	3,400
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	5,700	5,700	5,500
Truck Transportation	4,200	4,200	4,000
Information	1,500	1,500	1,600
Financial Activities	3,500	3,500	3,600
Professional & Business Services	8,800	8,800	9,800
Employment Services	3,700	3,700	4,700
Education & Health Services	12,100	12,200	12,600
Health Care & Social Assistance	11,800	11,900	12,400
Hospitals	4,400	4,400	4,500
Leisure & Hospitality	7,500	7,500	7,400
Other Services	2,800	2,900	2,800
Government	11,000	10,300	10,700
Federal Government	1,200	1,200	1,300
State Government	1,700	1,700	1,700
Local Government	8,100	7,400	7,700



Fort Smith MSA Records Job Growth in August

Total nonfarm payroll jobs for the Fort Smith MSA increased in August by 600. The increases were mainly due to the reopening of schools, which are classified in local government. **Natural resources and mining** added 100 jobs for the month. Two sectors: **educational-health services**, and **other services** recorded decreases of 100 jobs each.

Over the year, the Fort Smith MSA lost 600 nonfarm payroll jobs. **Professional and business services** recorded a loss of 1,000 jobs for the period, with employment services accounting for the decrease. **Educational and health services** had a drop of 500 nonfarm jobs. The employment decrease was traced to healthcare and social assistance. The **financial activities** and **information** sectors recorded decreases of 100 jobs each.

Manufacturing showed upward movement with an increase of 400 jobs over the year. From August 2003 through August 2004, sectors recording nonfarm payroll job increases were: **government** (300); **trade, transportation-utilities** (200); **leisure-hospitality** (100); and **natural resource-mining** (100).

Hours & Earnings of Production Workers

Manufacturing Industries

	August 04	July 04	August 03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$581.57	\$545.90	\$555.67
Average Weekly Hours	41.6	41.2	41.1
Average Hourly Earnings	\$13.98	\$13.25	\$13.52

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	August 04	July 04	August 03
Total Nonfarm	317,300	315,600	317,300
Goods Producing	41,800	41,800	42,400
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	17,600	17,600	17,600
Special Trade Contractors	9,900	9,900	9,900
Manufacturing	24,200	24,200	24,800
Durable Goods	14,900	14,900	15,300
Fabricated Metals	3,000	3,000	3,100
Computer & Electronic Equipment	2,400	2,400	2,500
Transportation Equipment	3,400	3,400	3,400
Nondurable Goods	9,300	9,300	9,500
Service Providing	275,500	273,800	274,900
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	64,100	64,100	66,800
Wholesale Trade	15,500	15,600	15,900
Retail Trade	32,700	32,700	34,200
Food & Beverage Stores	4,500	4,500	4,600
General Merchandise Stores	8,000	8,100	7,600
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	15,900	15,800	16,700
Information	9,100	9,200	9,400
Telecommunications	4,900	4,900	5,200
Financial Activities	20,000	19,900	19,700
Professional & Business Services	42,000	39,900	40,900
Computer Systems	4,800	4,700	5,100
Employment Services	10,200	9,200	9,700
Education & Health Services	40,900	40,700	40,700
Hospitals	13,500	12,800	12,900
Leisure & Hospitality	24,900	25,100	25,400
Food Services	18,700	18,800	19,200
Other Services	12,100	12,100	12,100
Government	62,400	62,800	59,900
Federal Government	9,400	9,500	9,500
State Government	29,700	29,500	28,100
Local Government	23,300	23,800	22,300



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Show Gains in August 2004

Nonfarm payroll jobs increased 1,700 jobs in the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA according to preliminary data for August 2004. The biggest boost came from the **professional and business services** sector where a gain of 2,100 jobs occurred. Employment services sub-sector added 1,000 jobs as demand for administrative and support work gained momentum over the previous month.

Growth in the **education and health services** sector accounted for 200 jobs. Employment in the **government** sector decreased 400 as support workers were released for summer break in both private and public education. The **leisure and hospitality** sector lost 200 jobs. The **information** sector decreased its workforce by 100 over the month. This drop was offset by a gain of 100 jobs in the **financial activities** sector.

A year-to-year comparison showed nonfarm payroll job totals unchanged. Upon closer inspection, **government** grew over the year at a rate of 4.2 per cent or 2,500 jobs. These increases were traced to state and local government. **Trade, transportation-utilities** slowed its growth by 4.0 percent, losing 2,700 jobs. **Professional-business services** saw 2.7 percent job growth over the year when 1,100 new jobs were created. A large portion of this growth was traced to employment services where administrative support was in demand. The **information** sector lost 300 jobs over the year while the **financial activities** sector added 300 jobs, offsetting a negative employment outlook. **Education-health services** grew by 4.7 per cent from August 2003 to August 2004 as hospitals added 600 new jobs. Over the year, leisure-hospitality employment grew by 500, largely attributed to the seasonal hiring patterns in the food service and drink industry. **Other services** and **natural resource, mining-construction** were unchanged over the year. Jobs in the manufacturing sector declined 2.4 percent, losing 600 jobs.

Hours and Earnings of Production Workers

	Manufacturing Industries			Durable Goods Industries		
	August 04	July 04	August 03	August 04	July 04	August 03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$585.63	\$600.67	\$596.14	\$601.77	\$624.70	\$602.34
Average Weekly Hours	41.3	41.8	42.1	42.2	42.7	41.2
Average Hourly Earnings	\$14.18	\$14.37	\$14.16	\$14.26	\$14.63	\$14.62

Pine Bluff Metropolitan Statistical Area



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Advance in August

Total nonfarm payroll jobs for Pine Bluff MSA showed gains of 300 jobs from July to August. The **manufacturing** sector gained 100 jobs. Meanwhile, 200 jobs were added in the service providing sector. These increases were traced to **professional-business services** and **government** where each gained 100 jobs.

In the nonfarm payroll sector, a year-to-year comparison showed additions of 1,100 jobs. The **government** sector added 1,000 employees between August 2003 and August 2004. The **manufacturing** sector gained 300 jobs. Over the year, **natural resources and construction** saw reductions of 100 jobs. **Information, leisure-hospitality, trade, transportation-utilities** each lost 100 jobs. Employment statistics in **financial activities, professional-business services** and **other services** were unchanged from August 2003 to August 2004.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	August 04	July 04	August 03
Total Nonfarm	36,500	36,200	35,400
Goods Producing	8,200	8,100	8,000
Natural Resources & Construction	900	900	1,000
Manufacturing	7,300	7,200	7,000
Nondurable Goods	4,400	4,300	4,500
Service Providing	28,300	28,100	27,400
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	6,400	6,400	6,500
Wholesale Trade	1,000	1,000	1,000
Retail Trade	4,000	4,000	4,100
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	1,400	1,400	1,400
Information	200	200	300
Financial Activities	1,300	1,300	1,300
Professional & Business Services	2,400	2,300	2,400
Education & Health Services	5,600	5,600	5,400
Leisure & Hospitality	2,300	2,300	2,400
Other Services	1,400	1,400	1,400
Government	8,700	8,600	7,700
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	1,800
State Government	3,100	3,200	2,800
Local Government	3,700	3,500	3,100

Jonesboro Metropolitan Statistical Area



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Show Slight Decrease in August

The total number of nonfarm payroll jobs decreased slightly in the Jonesboro MSA in August. Decreases were seen in the **mining-construction** and **education-health services** groups of 200 and 100 respectively. Employment declined in the construction sector but is expected to be reversed as numerous new projects are anticipated.

When comparing the yearly employment picture for the MSA, totals decreased for four groups while two had increases. Groups decreasing included: **mining-construction, trade, transportation-utilities, education-health services**, and **other services**. The **professional-business services** and **manufacturing** groups, up 200, saw increases in employment which partly countered the losses. Increases and decreases yielded an overall reduction of 500 jobs.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	August-04	July-04	August-03
Total Nonfarm	40,100	40,400	40,600
Mining & Construction	1,700	1,900	2,200
Manufacturing	7,700	7,700	7,500
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7,700	7,700	7,900
Information	700	700	700
Financial Activities	1,500	1,500	1,500
Professional & Business	3,100	3,100	2,900
Education & Health Services	6,500	6,600	6,600
Leisure & Hospitality	3,800	3,800	3,800
Other Services	1,500	1,500	1,600
Government	5,900	5,900	5,900

Technical Notes

"Labor Market Trends" is prepared monthly in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision.

Estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs show the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work.

Hours and earnings estimates are based on payroll and worker-hour data collected for production workers in manufacturing industries.

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System.

All estimates are based on a first quarter 2003 benchmark.

Explanation of Terms and Concepts

Monthly Business Survey of Employers - A monthly sample survey designed to provide industry information on nonfarm payroll jobs. Data are compiled each month from mail questionnaires and telephone interviews by the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board in cooperation with BLS. The data are based on establishment records and include all workers, full- or part-time, who received pay during the payroll period which includes the 12th of the month. Approximately 4,000 business establishments are included in the Arkansas survey.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) - A term applied by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to counties that have one or more central cities and that meet specified criteria of population density, commuting patterns and social and economic integration.

Current Population Survey (CPS) - A monthly sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over, designed to provide data on the labor force, the employed and the unemployed. The survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for BLS. The information is collected by

trained interviewers from a sample of about 50,000 households. The data collected are based on the activity reported for the calendar week including the 12th of the month. A total of 871 Arkansas households are represented in the sample survey.

Civilian Labor Force - The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

Employment - An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

Unemployment - An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month.

Unemployment Rate - The number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force.

Seasonal Adjustment - A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to such seasonal events as changes in the weather, major holidays, shifts in production schedules, harvest times, and the opening and closing of schools.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) - A measure of the average change in prices over time of a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, and other items that people buy for day-to-day living. The CPI shown in this publication represents the U.S. city average and is not seasonally adjusted. There is no separate consumer price index for Arkansas.

Labor Force Statistics

Arkansas (Seasonally Adjusted)	August 2004	July 2004	August 2003
Civilian Labor Force	1,321,100	1,318,100	1,262,300
Employment	1,250,200	1,244,600	1,181,100
Unemployment	70,900	73,500	81,200
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.6	6.4
Arkansas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)			
Civilian Labor Force	1,329,700	1,342,600	1,272,400
Employment	1,262,200	1,261,000	1,195,500
Unemployment	67,500	81,600	76,900
Unemployment Rate	5.1	6.1	6.0
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers			
Civilian Labor Force	182,050	183,075	170,200
Employment	177,600	177,300	165,050
Unemployment	4,450	5,775	5,150
Unemployment Rate	2.5	3.2	3.0
Fort Smith			
Civilian Labor Force	102,500	103,625	99,300
Employment	97,925	98,250	94,100
Unemployment	4,575	5,375	5,200
Unemployment Rate	4.5	5.2	5.2
Jonesboro			
Civilian Labor Force	45,900	46,450	44,575
Employment	43,775	43,825	42,125
Unemployment	2,125	2,625	2,450
Unemployment Rate	4.6	5.6	5.5
Little Rock-North Little Rock			
Civilian Labor Force	327,225	329,500	312,375
Employment	312,825	312,750	296,100
Unemployment	14,400	16,750	16,275
Unemployment Rate	4.4	5.1	5.2
Pine Bluff			
Civilian Labor Force	39,150	39,750	36,125
Employment	35,750	35,750	32,675
Unemployment	3,400	4,000	3,450
Unemployment Rate	8.7	10.1	9.5
United States Unemployment Rates:			
Seasonally Adjusted	5.4	5.5	6.1
Not Seasonally Adjusted	5.4	5.7	6.0

Note: MSA data are not seasonally adjusted.



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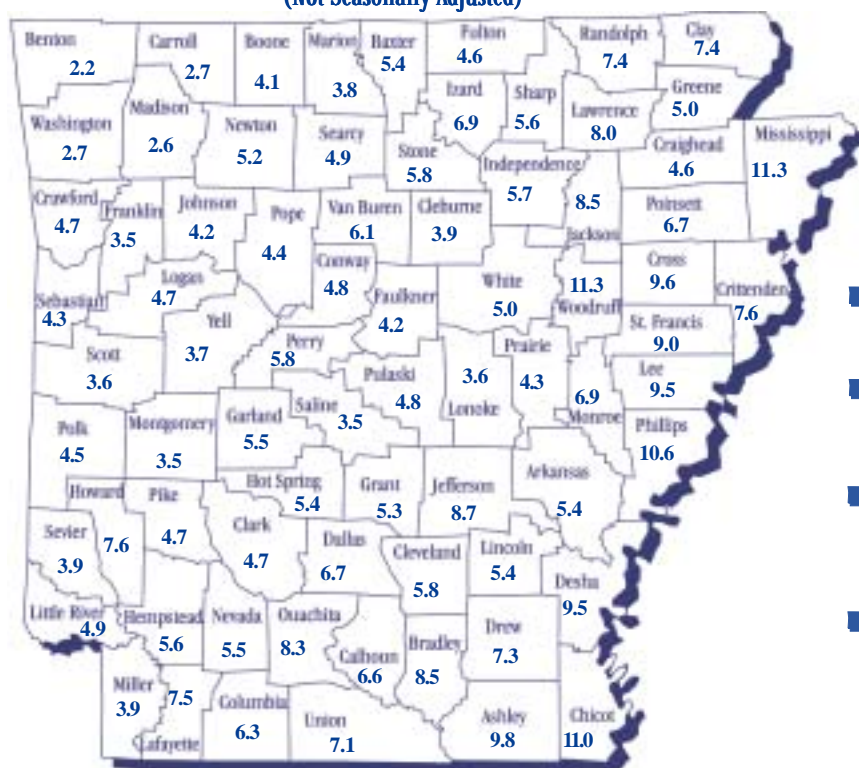
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Arkansas Unemployment Rates by County August 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Mike Huckabee - Governor
State of Arkansas

Arte Williams-Director
Arkansas Employment Security Department

Labor Market Trends is a publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs Section of the Arkansas Employment Security Department. This newsletter is published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor.

- Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.4 percent.
- Jobless rates dropped in 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties between July and August. The only increase was in Howard County where the rate rose from 5.9 percent in July to 7.6 percent in August.
- Unemployment rates in all five of Arkansas' metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) declined between July and August. Rates ranged from 2.5 percent in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA to 8.7 percent in the Pine Bluff MSA.
- Fourteen counties had unemployment rates below 4.0 percent in August. Benton County, with an unemployment rate of 2.2 percent, continued to have the lowest rate for any Arkansas county.

Additional county statistics are available from the Arkansas Employment Security Department in the monthly publication, *Labor Market Information for Arkansas Counties*.